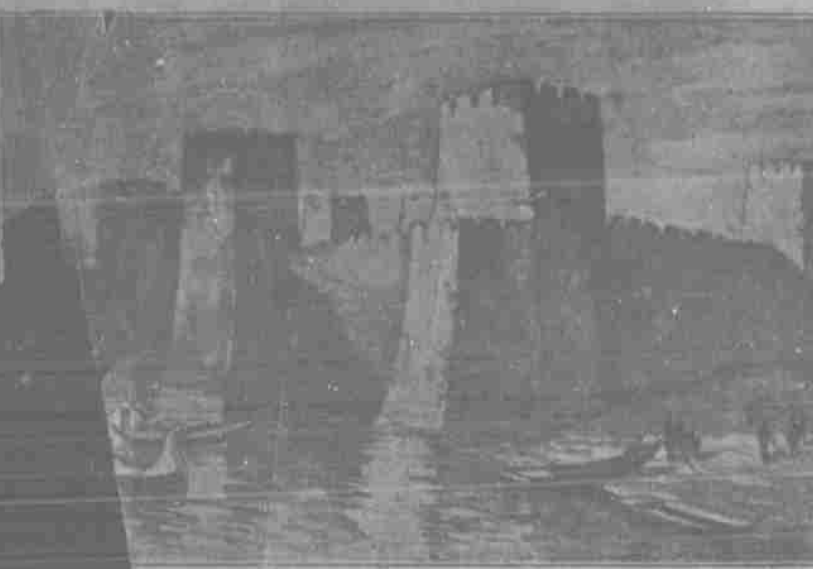


# Things Queer and Curious

## Turkey's Mid-Europe Remnant



remnant of Turkey left in, one may say, mid-Europe is the island, on the Danube. It still belongs to Turkey, but is under of Austria, and is an important point, which, in eventuality, of the navigation of the river. The island was once a strong still surrounded by a detachment of Austro-Hungarian soldiers, at each point of vantage. From the gate of the strong, one can see the citadel, with its bazaar and primitive cafes flanking the narrow streets. The mosque is richly draped with valuable carpets, it other is a very plain building. The sultan, to keep the island inhabited by Turkish people, sends as a gift each year a shipload of coffee, tobacco, sweets, and various other commodities and they have the privilege of selling their coffee and sugar at Orsova, a few miles distant on the Hungarian shore, duty free to the extent of one pound in weight.

## IOWA'S TRANGE ICE CAVE OLDEST CHAIR IN AMERICA



The ice cave is one of nature's wonders. It is only one of a number of other caves of a similar nature are one located in another in Russia. It is advanced several the formation of ice in the cave during the summer is a known fact, however, in the summer and during the winter. That the ice has been proved by the discovery of the cave in times of continuing drought. When this cave will be cool and dry, conditions are normal forming in the spring and to the thickness of three inches. The cave is located on the north side of a bluff on the Upper Iowa river. Its location is a fine view of the city and the citizens of the city.

Hanover, Pa., lost the oldest and what is believed to be the most remarkable piece of furniture in America when the famous Hingley armchair, which has seen five centuries, was expressed to Hagerstown, Md., the home of Joseph Parker Hingley, who inherited it by the will of his father, the late John Jackson Hingley of Hanover. Kept as an heirloom, the ancient chair has been passed down from father to son for many generations. J. Edward Hingley of Baltimore, Md., is heir apparent to the coveted relic.

The chair is a massive piece of work, made in Yorkshire, England, in 1450. It represents the type of architecture popular in those days. English oak, inlaid with various kinds of wood, was used in its construction. The back is handsomely carved and at the top, figures of birds are engraved. The joints are mortised and held together with wooden pegs.

Sixty-two years before Columbus discovered America this chair was built, and it remained in the town of Hingley, named from the ancestors of the present owner, during the reign of twenty English monarchs, from Henry VI to Victoria. After a brief stay at Leeds, it was taken to Manchester. In 1856 the chair was brought to this country on the ship Mary Hale and was landed at Baltimore. In the Civil War the chair was in Richmond, Va., where the owner temporarily left it in the care of a friend while he escaped to the north. Subsequently it was sent to Watertown, N. Y., and in 1864 was brought to Hanover.

## FEEDING THE RATS

A correspondent reports a horrible incident which befell a lady. Her "butler" was in the habit of calling loudly beneath the door every evening about 7 o'clock, suggesting that he was calling the cattle or the chickens, but though she had neither, the butler for some time took no notice, and one evening, having the curiosity to look, she was horrified to see a butler, like a dusky piper, surrounded by a troop of rats. There were quite 50 of them, from the big to small insects, all bent on the remains of her soup, and other bits. In a plague of rats was an amusement that ended.

## Bones Evicted From Graves

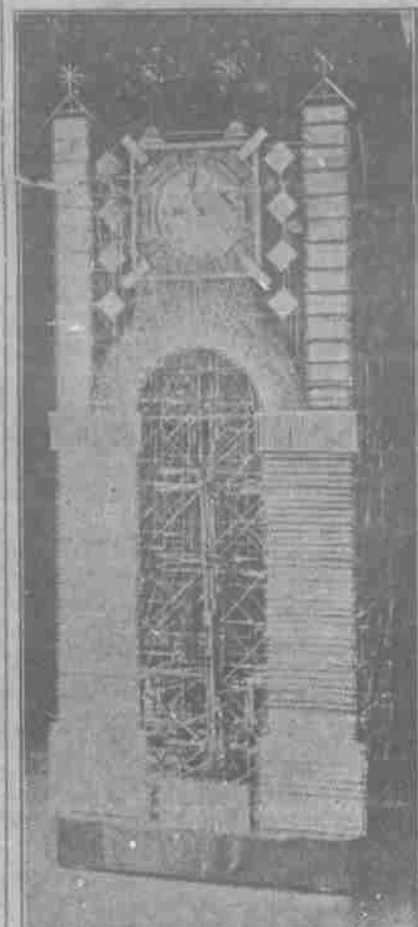


It is the custom among the less wealthy classes in Greece to bury a body for three years only. At the end of that period the bones are exhumed, that room may be made in the grave for other bodies. The bones and bundles of human bones, the shown awaiting removal by relatives or friends of the deceased, are seen outside the charnel-house of the cemetery at Athens.

## LIGHTING BY SUGAR

The suggestion has been put forward that there is every possibility that, in the near future, sugar will play an important part in the provision of a new method of artificial lighting. Experiments have shown that when disks of loaf sugar are placed on a lathe and rapidly rotated while a hammer plays lightly against them, there is an almost continuous radiation of artificial light. At present the practical value of the discovery is nil, but it is quite within the bounds of possibility that discoveries will soon be made that will render its practical application a certainty. The cause of the phenomenon is not at present correctly understood, but it is probably due to some change in the formation of the sugar crystals. Cases where the act of crystallization is accompanied by flashes of light are not unknown and probably this is due to some similar cause. At any rate, this appears to be the only feasible explanation, as it has been proved that the light is not caused by the heating of the sugar during the experiment.

## CLOCK MADE ALL OF STRAW



Ingenuous men of many times and many lands have made numerous curious timepieces, but few of them surpass the clock built by a German shoemaker. It is made wholly of straw, several thousand pieces being used in its construction, and its total weight is seven ounces. There are eight pendulums and the mechanism is wound up by the pressing of a button, when it runs for five hours.

## ROPES OF HUMAN HAIR

We are constantly getting some of our cherished ideas shattered by research. One of the stories which was not always accepted as an axiom relates to the ladies of Carthage, who, we were taught, cut off their hair, offered their tresses in the temples of the gods and then turned them into ropes for the warships when their country was threatened. The news now comes from Antwerp, through a French source, that a manufacturer in that city has turned his attention to this method of rope making. He asserts that human hair possesses great durability, a strand can lift just three-quarters of a ton, and another advantage is that such a rope does not stretch. The Amsterdam manufacturer's idea is to use his hair ropes for aeroplanes in place of wire stays.

## A FEDERAL HEALTH BOARD.

It is gratifying to note that the bill for the creation of a federal health board will not be allowed to pass without a protest. Reports of organized resistance come from all parts of the country, and it may be that the opposition will soon be sufficiently solidified to defeat a project that promises infinite mischief to the community, and suffering and injustice to the individual.

The proposal is based upon those specious claims that are notoriously hard to controvert. If a federal health board were to confine its activities to the promulgation of salutary advice upon hygienic matters, to the abatement of quackery, and to the purity of drugs, it might be possible to say much in its favor, although it would still be difficult to say that such an organization is needed. But we know that it will attempt to do far more than this, seeing that its adherents have loudly proclaimed their intentions. Indeed, there is no secrecy about them. It is confidently expected that the board will consist of advocates of one school of medicine only and that the methods of that school will be not only recommended, but enforced upon the nation. Indeed a board that was in any way representative of the medical profession as a whole would be stifled by its own disagreements. Outside the domain of simple hygiene, for which we need no federal board at all, there is no single point of medical practice upon which allopaths, homeopaths, eclectics, and osteopaths could be in unison. Any board that could be devised by the wit of man must be composed of representatives of one school only, and this means that all other schools are branded as of an inferior caste, even though nothing worse happened to them. And something worse would happen to them, if we are to establish a school of medicine, if we are to assert that the government of the United States favors one variety of practice more than others, why not establish also a sect of religion and bestow special authorities upon Baptists, Methodists and Episcopalians? An established school of religious conjecture seems somewhat less objectionable than an established sect of pseudo-scientific conjecture.

Those who suppose that a federal board of health would have no concern with individual rights are likely to find themselves undeceived. It is for the purpose of interfering with individual rights that the proposal has been made. We need no special knowledge of conditions to be aware that what may be called unorthodox methods of healing have made sad inroads into the orthodox. Homeopathy claims a vast number of adherents who are just as well educated and just as intelligent as those who adhere to the older school. Osteopathy, eclecticism, and half a dozen other methods of practice are certainly not losing ground. Beyond them is the vast and increasing army of those who may be classed under the general and vague name of mental healers. Those who are addicted to any of these forms of unorthodoxy need have no doubt as to the purposes of the federal health board. Those purposes are to make it difficult for them to follow their particular fads and fancies, to lead them, and if necessary to drive them, from medical unorthodoxy to medical orthodoxy.

Now the Argonaut holds no brief for any of the excesses and the superstitions connected with the care of the body in which this age is so rife. But it does feel concerned for the preservation of human liberty and for the rights of the individual to doctor himself in any way he pleases so long as he does not indubitably threaten the health of the community. He may take large doses or small ones, or no doses at all; he may be massaged, anointed with oil, or prayed over, just as the whim of the moment may dictate, and probably it makes no particle of difference which he does. But he has the right to choose, just as he chooses the color of his necktie or the character of his underclothing. It is not a matter in which any wise government will seek to interfere. This is precisely the liberty that the health board intends to take from him. Orthodox medicine, conscious of its losses, is trying to buttress itself by federal statute, to exalt allopathy to the status of a privileged caste, and to create an established school of medicine just as some other countries have allowed themselves to create an established school of religion. It is for the common sense of the community to rebuke that effort and to repel an unwarranted invasion upon elementary human rights.—San Francisco Argonaut.

## A Drain of the Company.

On his way home from the theater, where he had seen a performance of "Othello," Robby was unusually quiet. "Didn't you enjoy the play," his grandfather asked at last. "Oh, yes, very much," replied Robby. "But, grandpa, there's one thing I don't quite understand. Does the black man kill a lady every night?"—Youth's Companion.

## Natural Deduction.

"Papa, are lawyers always bad-tempered?" "No, daughter; why do you ask that?" "Because I read so much in the papers about their cross-examinations."

## Kindred Spirits.

"Lady," said Piddling Pete, "I ain't had a square meal in two days." "Well," said the resolute woman, "as she turned the dog loose, 'I know you'll be a Tower, so I know you'll be a Tower.'"

## For the LITTLE ONES

### LEGEND OF THE MISTLETOE

Some Claim Goddesses Kissed All Who Passed Under Plant as Symbol of Love.

(By E. H. GAILLARD)  
According to Scandinavian mythology, Loki (the god of evil) was the sworn enemy of Baldr (the god of light), and tried by every means in his power to kill him, but failed because he was invulnerable to everything that came from earth—air, fire, or water. Loki, at last, conceived the idea that the mistletoe, springing from neither, would serve his purpose, and, having an arrow made from that wood, he helped Hod (the blind god of darkness), to aim it, and Baldr fell dead—shot through the heart.

All the gods and goddesses prayed for his restoration to life, and when the prayer was granted it was decreed that the mistletoe should nevermore have power to do harm unless it touched the earth, and the goddess of love was appointed to guard it. Some legends claim that the goddess kissed all who passed under the plant as a token that it was no longer a weapon of death, but a symbol of love, while others assert that she exacted a kiss from each as a propitiation, or the bough should be allowed to work harm.

Another reason for the kissing privilege conferred by the plant is said to be that a lovely maiden preferred death to the kisses of an old monk who pursued her, and her prayers for deliverance were answered by transforming her into a mistletoe branch and placing her in a tree. The monk waited for her return, but rather than that, she clasped the tree and remained clinging to it, leaving the waiting monk to kiss whom-ever he could catch.

The custom of "kissing beneath the mistletoe" is so old that no one knows when or how it originated; but when young people are found selecting the branches that have the



Mistletoe.

most berries on, it is fair to suppose that they know a kiss must be given for each berry plucked, and that the ceremony is never complete until every berry is off the branch.

There was once a common, though mistaken belief that the mistletoe grew on oak trees only, but that was so far from true that the Druids, who held the oak as absolutely sacred because they believed it to represent the One Supreme God, deemed the mistletoe doubly sacred if found on one, and carefully guarded it until the sixth day after the first new moon of each year.

When this time arrived, priests robed in white surrounded the tree and held solemn ceremonies, among which was the sacrifice of two white bulls.

After the ceremonies, a priest in spotless robes ascended the tree and, with a golden knife, cut the mistletoe and let it fall on to a white cloth held by other priests.

The branches were then formally "blessed" and divided among the people who believed the sprays given them to have miraculous powers.

The common belief in the efficacy of the plant was such that it was called all-heal; but according to an old legend, a certain lover searched many days for a specimen growing on an oak tree, that he might secure its branches for the cure of his betrothed, who was sick unto death, but when he found it he touched the sap while cutting the branches, and fell dead near the tree, indicating that the sap was a deadly poison. The plant thrives in America from New Jersey southward and westward, and those who know it only as a part of Christmas decorations can have little idea of how often it overruns trees to the extent of being a nuisance.

## Appropriate Locations.

The place for baby carriages—Wheeling.  
The place for bank savings—Port Deposit.  
The place for politicians—Boston.  
The place for an auto center—Mobile.  
The place for a laundry town—Wilmington.  
The place for a coal game—Cleveland.  
The place for a...  
The place for a...  
The place for a...

## SNOWBALL BATTLE.



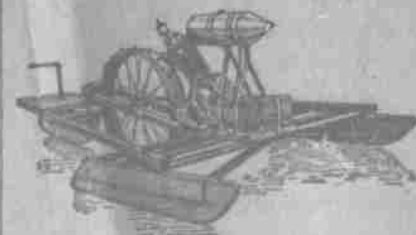
See the soldiers all in line!  
Now the battle's on!  
Every man will have to test  
His mettle and his brawn.  
Ammunition's piled up high.  
To use throughout, the first  
batch just begins when school is out  
And ends at close of day.  
The Big Snow Fort is near at hand,  
And soldiers great and small,  
Will strive to win the victory  
With the powerful snowball.

## HOME-MADE MOTOR ICEBOAT

One Constructed to Take Place of Regular Sail Iceboat and Used With Success Last Winter.

This motor-driven iceboat was constructed to take the place of the regular sail iceboat, and the one from which the accompanying illustration was made was used with success all last winter.

The boat is 4 1/2 feet wide at the widest part and ten feet long. The



Iceboat Propelled by Engine.

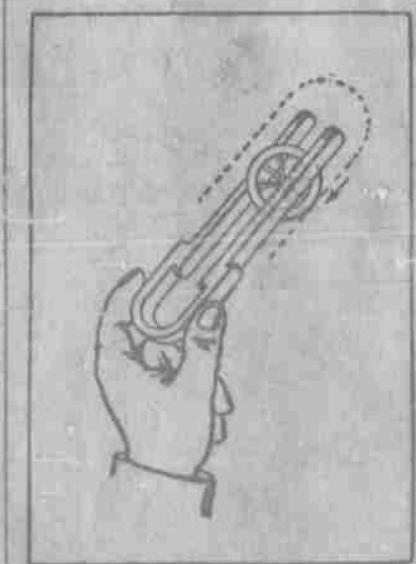
runners are about ten inches high, shod with steel ground concave the same as a skate runner. The motor is a three-horsepower air-cooled engine which was taken from an old motorcycle. The power is transmitted by a belt to a spiked driving wheel, giving a reduction of about 7 1/2 to 1, says a writer in the Popular Mechanics. The rear wheel of the motorcycle was also taken and an iron band shrunk on for a tire, and steel horse-shoe calks attached at four-inch intervals for the spikes. The two pieces that support the spiked driving wheel are hinged so as to allow the wheel to rise and fall over any bumps on the ice and to let the engine run free when desired. The entire boat with its propelling equipment weighs 130 pounds.

The boat is operated from the rear with one lever for controlling the spark, another for the throttle and the third for directing the course of the boat.

## EDUCATIONAL TOY IS QUEER

Wheel Rolls Round Ends of Magnet, but Doesn't Fall Off—Amusing Plaything Patented by Ohioan.

A toy that is both amusing and of educational value has been patented by an Ohio man. A horseshoe magnet with unusually long poles has the ends of these poles rounded. A single wheel, with a round steel bar running through it for an axle, rests upon this axle on the poles of the magnet, which form an endless track for it. The wheel, of



An Educational Toy.

course, is made light enough that the attraction of the magnet keeps it from falling off, yet the wheel can roll about easily on what is practically an endless track. To a child this toy brings home more forcibly than any lecture by his school teacher the power and principle of magnetism and he will find it "fascinating" while it is with him. The uninitiated will wonder how the wheel can roll on the horseshoe and not fall off. The answer is, it merely rolls on the high part of the magnet.

See the soldiers all in line!  
Now the battle's on!  
Every man will have to test  
His mettle and his brawn.  
Ammunition's piled up high.  
To use throughout, the first  
batch just begins when school is out  
And ends at close of day.  
The Big Snow Fort is near at hand,  
And soldiers great and small,  
Will strive to win the victory  
With the powerful snowball.